

My Crown 221

Chapter 221: Thousand Blossom Festival

After the crown prince and the child returned to the banquet, the crown prince conversed with the city lord for a while.

Gu Qingfeng had already received a report from his subordinate that the entire storeroom was emptied in the blink of an eye.

His reverence for this little girl increased further. The little girl's inner world must be extraordinary, which was why Li Xiang of the Daybreak Sect ran headfirst into misfortune when he wanted to peek into her inner world that day.

'Tut tut, I must be more careful in the future and constrain my subordinates so that we don't easily offend Little Miss.'

Gu Qingfeng told everyone about the Thousand Blossom Festival; it would be held from noon until night.

The city had not organized such a large-scale entertainment festivity ever since the zombie outbreak. Hence, City Lord Gu attached high importance to this festival.

As the activities of the Thousand Blossom Festival were arranged, the entire Xijiu City turned bustling and lively.

Moreover, everyone heard that the winner of the first three places in the Thousand Blossom Festival would each receive 100 pounds, 50 pounds and 20 pounds of food, respectively. Hence, everyone was embroiled in excitement.

Every family transported their flowers and plants to the central plaza to register for this competition, and everyone rubbed their hands together at the thought of the food prizes.

In the past, the prize of the first place winner of the Thousand Blossom Festival was 100 gold, so the wealthy families did not bother to participate. It was typically only the small households who worked hard for the competition in a bid for the 100 gold.

Now though, even the wealthy families in the city flurried into activity and carried the most valuable flower in their house to the plaza to register.

It was apparent that in the current times, gold and silver were nowhere near as precious as food.

This was an activity for the whole city. The city lord even especially issued an order that permitted the impoverished people from the eastern and western district to go to the central district and observe.

However, the impoverished people had to be thoroughly searched and questioned at the checkpoint to the central district. They were not allowed to carry any sharp items.

As a result, everyone in Xijiu City, from 7-year-old children to 80-year-old grannies, all rejoiced in the fanfare of the Thousand Blossom Festival. Friends would gather together to make plans for enjoying the festival together.

When it was time for dinner tonight, Qiao Mu was finally willing to attend the meal, making her parents very happy.

As soon as the white daisy saw her, she placed down her chopsticks and grievously stood up to yield her seat.

She servilely skittered to Elderly Lady Qiao's side and stood next to the old woman like she was an unpresentable wife.

Qiao Mu did not even bother to look at this white daisy. She greeted her parents and Second Uncle and sat down to eat dinner.

Under Shaoyao's "Miss, try this" and "Miss, try that" as she picked up pieces from the dishes to place into Qiao Mu's bowl, Qiao Mu enjoyed quite a decent dinner.

Wen Ruwan sneakily peeked at the child, anger flickering through her eyes.

In the last two days, the family had joyously eaten the many sumptuous dishes together around the table while completely ignoring her.

The only exception was her aunt who felt sorry for her and pulled her by the hand to sit down and eat together. Everyone else treated her like she was invisible and ignored her.

Even Wei Ziqin, who held a favorable attitude toward her at the beginning, became a lot more aloof these past two days. To begin with, Wei Ziqin did not converse with her that often, but now, Wei Ziqin ignored her compliments too.

So frustrating!

She still remembered how friendly this family treated her the first day she had arrived at the Qiao residence. However, ever since that little b*tch, Qiao Mu, returned, everything turned upside down!

After Elderly Lady Qiao had the serving Mother Xu add a chair for Wen Ruwan, she awkwardly sat down.

Before she could finish sitting down, Qiao Mu placed down her bowl and expressionlessly said, "I'm full. Father, Mother, this daughter will excuse herself now."

Everyone: "..."

Her meaning could not be any clearer! She did not like Wen Ruwan!

Chapter 222: Invitation

"Q-qiaoqiao." Wen Ruwan hurriedly stood back up and gave Qiao Mu an embarrassed smile.

"Um, I heard that the city will be holding the Thousand Blossom Festival tomorrow." Wen Ruwan could not speak fluently at first when she met the child's dark eyes.

However, after calming her breathing and donning on a fake smile, her speech turned more fluent. "Um, the children haven't taken a good look at Xijiu City despite how long they've been here. How about our whole family go to the central plaza tomorrow to see this festival..."

“Who’s family with you?” Qiao Mu’s face darkened. ‘What a thick-faced person.’

‘Do you think you’ll have the chance to intrude into our family in this life?’

Wen Ruwan shuddered, and her face switched between being flushed and ashen. She did not know how to continue.

“Um, ahem, there’s going to be a lot of people out on the streets tomorrow. Xiao Lin’er is still young, so it isn’t suitable for her to be in such a packed environment,” Second Uncle quickly smoothed things over. “How about we forget this matter?”

Who knew his youngest niece would be curious as she asked with a lisp, “Mother, yommy things to eet at Dousand Fower Festival?”

The hostile atmosphere was instantly dissolved by Xiao Lin’er’s childish words.

Qiao Mu’s tensed face relaxed, and she turned to look at her sister in amusement. “Yes, there’ll be a lot of flowers to eet.”

Xiao Lin’er’s eyes lit up. “Sister, I want to eet! Eet flower!”

Wei Ziqin smiled at these two sisters’ conversation. Qiao Zhongbang and Qiao Zhongxing’s mouth also uncontrollably trembled.

This treasure. She had not lacked in food and had an endless supply of snacks and pastries these days. She spent her days in a more nourishing and blissful manner than the past, and her little cheeks were turning plump too. Yet, all she had on her mind was eating and more eating...

Elderly Lady Qiao coughed and tried to speak on her niece’s behalf. “Then you young ones should go out together and have fun. Ziqin, your belly is getting big, so you should stay at home. Ruwan, how about you take the children out? Pay attention to your safety.”

“Yes, Elderly Lady.” Excitement burned in Wen Ruwan’s eyes.

She did not believe it! If she had the opportunity to spend more time with the children, she would definitely trick that d*mn girl, Qiao Mu, to her side! She was merely a bratty child, how smart could she be? At that time, she just had to use some methods, and she would...

Qiao Mu sent Wen Ruwan a meaningful look before picking Xiao Lin’er up and leaving. However, she did not refute Elderly Lady Qiao’s words.

Upon seeing that she was aloof but did not object and humiliate her on the spot, Elderly Lady Qiao sighed in relief and secretly sent Wen Ruwan a look.

Wen Ruwan nodded at the elderly lady. “Don’t worry, Elderly Lady. I’ll definitely use this opportunity to become closer to these children” was written all over her eyes.

How could she have known that Qiao Mu humored her request because the girl wanted to rip her life from her?

Because...

Killing people at home was unsuitable...

A show was going to raise its curtains at the Thousand Blossom Festival.

Suddenly, Qiao Mu stopped walking, her gaze sharply shooting toward the wall.

Then, she stuffed Xiao Lin'er into Qiao Hu's arms. "Brother Xiao Hu, take Little Sister back. I need to go out."

Qiao Hu was currently blabbing on about going to the Thousand Blossom Festival in great excitement. He had just accepted Xiao Lin'er. In the next second, his elder younger sister leaped over the wall as fast as lightning, and her figure disappeared into the night sky.

His heart skipped a beat, and he quickly called, "Sh-shaoyao! Shaoyao, go and tell Dad!"

"Little Young Master, don't worry. There's someone following Miss, so she'll be fine," Shaoyao swiftly dissuaded the panicking boy. "Shaoyao will escort you two back to your room first."

On the other hand, after leaping over the wall, Qiao Mu shot forward like an arrow, producing an elongated shadow under the moonlight.

Chapter 223: Seeking Their Own Death (1)

"Master, Miss went after them, as well as Ao Ye," Huifeng reported while cupping his fists after he landed in front of a carriage parked on a street corner.

The crown prince was resting with his eyes closed inside the carriage. When he heard that, he opened his eyes.

The exterior of the carriage was ordinary, but the inside was covered with soft cushions, and every corner was wrapped in satin. The bamboo painted on the short table to the left of the crown prince was very exquisite, and there was a large red brocade box sitting on top of it.

Huifeng continued, "That person jumped onto the wall of Miss' home and was discovered. Before he could do anything, Miss pursued him, and he had to jump back down and leave in a panic like a stray dog being hunted down.

"Pft," the crown prince snorted in contempt.

There was really something left to be desired in the skills of Hui'an's lackeys.

"Follow them." These practice partners will be tomorrow's Thousand Blossom Festival's... appetizer!

"If Qiaoqiao wins, I will give this to her as a reward." The crown prince lightly ran his fingers over the red brocade box next to him.

This item had been under He Tian's safekeeping, but since the crown prince came here himself, then allowing Master to personally give it to the little miss was more suitable. He Tian was very tactful.

Hidden Flower was following beside the carriage. As he smoothed the wrinkles on his sleeves, he could not resist saying with a chuckle, "What if she loses?"

Huifeng peered back at him. Didn't this dunce understand "A loose tongue may cause a lot of trouble"...

"If she loses, then I'll sell you." An exquisite canteen flew out of the carriage, heading straight toward Hidden Flower's head.

Hidden Flower dodged to the side with a gloomy expression. *'So aggravating! Master is being completely unreasonable and temperamentally insulting people! I want justice!'*

At the same time, the man stubbornly pursued by Qiao Mu could feel sweat seeping out of his forehead for no reason.

He did not dare to believe that he, a level-four mystic cultivator, was discovered the second he had nimbly landed on the wall of her home. Wasn't this child too strange?

Also, her swiftness as she chased him made fear rise inexplicably in his heart.

Had he encountered a difficult opponent?

The man rapidly dashed toward his group's meeting point. *'D*mn brat, since you want to follow me, then keep following me! Let's watch you die without a burial place!'*

Suddenly, a fierce wind shot toward his back.

The man turned around in shock, only to see that a stoic face had reached his back already. She held a pitch-black ferule in her hand and was slapping it toward his back without so much as a "by your leave."

A fierce wind hit him before the ferule landed.

Mystic energy abruptly exploded on his back, causing him to stagger a few steps forward in a sorry state. Before he could make a noise, a terrifyingly powerful foot suffused with mystic energy ruthlessly landed on his back.

"Pah!" The man's face froze, and as he fiercely shot forward, a mouthful of blood spit out from his mouth. He felt like his organs went on a barrel roll down a waterfall, pain aching from every inch of his body.

*'Such a d*mn terrifying girl! I must run as fast as I can...'*

The man felt the breath of death drawing near him, so he did not dare to linger anymore. He sprinted forward with everything he had in him.

Just now, he had summoned all of the mystic energy around him to block that d*mn girl's hit.

However, he was still injured...

'What did that mean?' The man's eyes widened little by little. *'That d*mn girl's cultivation is higher than mine!'*

'How can that be? She is so young!'

Bang! Qiao Mu slapped her ferule again in her pursuit but missed. The light gathered by her mystic energy harshly landed mere inches behind the man's feet, draining the colors from his face. After a stumble, an exceptional speed erupted out of him.

The child frowned and sniffed the air.

She followed the man out of the central district and ran toward the ramshackle western district.

Chapter 224: Seeking Their Own Death (2)

*'D*mn girl!'*

'You won't tread on the wide-open path to heaven but insist on trespassing into the closed-off hell! Let's see how ferocious you will be later!'

The man's lips stretched into a forced smile as he suddenly stopped and turned around.

Qiao Mu also stopped and turned to look at the two strong men that emerged from the shadows on both sides of the pursued man.

"D*mn girl, it's not too late for you to beg." Based on his looks, the speaker was a normal farmer. He had a dark-skinned but honest and considerate face.

Qiao Mu coldly swept her eyes over her surroundings and their faces. "Who sent you here?"

The dark-skinned man sneered, "Ask the King of Hell."

Two immobilization talismans floated into the air out of nowhere and shot toward two of the men before ripping open.

Before the two fools even realized what had happened, they were immobilized, dumbstruck.

Then, Qiao Mu spun on her feet and dashed toward the dark-skinned man.

"You want to die!" the man roared, surprise flitting through his mind.

This child possessed immobilization talismans?

According to their open and undercover investigation, this child was merely a child from a normal family but gained His Highness' favor for some reason.

When the dark-skinned man, Nian Kui, recalled the commandery princess' mission, he gritted his teeth and untied his weapon from his back.

An iron club with sharp and frightening wolf fangs on its surface glittered under the moonlight.

"D*mn girl, do you think you're fearsome just because you're a mystic cultivator? With your figure, you won't even be enough to be my, your father's, toothpick!" Nian Kui shouted and swung his wolf-fang club toward Qiao Mu's head.

"When did I ever say mystic cultivators were fearsome?" Qiao Mu snorted. She leaped into the air and lithely flipped over the man's head.

Her extremely nimble figure rolled in the air. Then, her two short legs heavily stomped on Nian Kui's back.

The crisp crack of bones was heard, and Nian Kui howled. He shakily stumbled forward and knelt like a toad.

He started spitting out blood on the spot.

"However, it's more than enough to handle you." Qiao Mu waved her hand, and her ferule emitted a black light before pulverizing Nian Kui's wolf-fang club into pieces.

Nian Kui clutched onto the small remaining end of his club in shock before his hand relaxed its hold.

The remaining bit of the destroyed club landed on the ground with a clatter that also slammed into his heart.

Qiao Mu intuitively glanced backward and saw the crown prince descending from the carriage. The incoming breeze sent his hair fluttering in the air, adding to his magnificent figure.

The child's eyes brightened, and she hurriedly bolted toward him.

Hidden Flower smiled. *'As expected, my lord can mesmerize everyone in the world, from 80-year-olds to 8-year-olds.'*

"Hurry! Help me extract a strand of his soul." The little fellow pounced to the crown prince's side and frantically pulled on his hand.

Hidden Flower. *'...This vicious brat. Her eyes didn't brighten because she saw the crown prince, did they...'*

The crown prince naturally interpreted Qiao Mu's pouncing and hand-pulling as a request to be held and patted. He reached out and picked her up before patting her head. With a displeased expression, he asked, "What use is a piece of garbage like him? If you need someone to use, I can leave Hidden Flower behind."

"Master..." Hidden Flower called in exaggeration and forcibly squeezed out two drops of manly tears as if his life depended on it.

Qiao Mu glanced at Hidden Flower before turning back to the crown prince and saying, "He's crying, so you should keep him for yourself. Don't be so cruel. It's hard to be a subordinate."

Both Hidden Flower and Huifeng's lips twitched.

Ao Ye, who was hidden, thought, *'Then why in the world did you take the payment back then...'*

Chapter 225: A Coldness Poison

When Nian Kui saw the crown prince appeared, he fearfully grew limp on the ground.

The other two people were even worse. After the immobilization talisman's effect wore off, they knelt down with a plop and prostrated themselves before the crown prince, not daring to raise their heads a single inch.

"Your Highness, Your... AH!" Nian Kui let out a horrific scream and rolled on the ground back and forth while clutching his head.

Qiao Mu accepted the strand of soul that the crown prince handed to her, a strange smile imperceptibly appearing on her face.

"Search his body." Qiao Mu expressionlessly ordered. Before Ao Ye could burst out, Hidden Flower and Huifeng fell over each other to run to Nian Kui and boorishly kicked him twice before turning him onto his back to search him.

Soon, a small box was being handed to the little miss.

The crown prince solemnly stared at the box in her hand.

"You know their master?" Qiao Mu turned to look at him.

It was obvious that these three people were acting on someone's order. Since they recognize the crown prince, there was an 80% chance that they came from Guanlan City.

"Hui'an from the Vassal King of An'nan's Estate. Her ancestors embarked on the campaign to conquer the world with the former king, so they were bestowed with a hereditary title of 'Vassal King' despite being a non-royal clan." Dark clouds shrouded the crown prince's eyes.

Great job to Hui'an indeed! He really had no idea she sent a medicinal pill here to secretly harm his Xiao Qiaoqiao.

Qiao Mu opened the box and saw a red pill with a strangely sweet scent laying inside the box. She was about to pick it up when the crown prince grabbed her hand to stop her.

"It's merely a Coldness Poison pill, it won't harm me." Qiao Mu snorted and picked up the pill between two fingers. She brought it near her nose to smell it before scoffing in contempt, "What shoddy medicine manufacturing methods."

"After ingesting it and the poison enters the body, the coldness poisoning effects will build up as the victim grows older. The victim's health will also grow poorer." From then on, the victim would be in so much pain that she wished for death whenever her period came every month until the coldness poison completely corroded her body without a sign. The victim would have tremendous difficulty becoming pregnant for the rest of her life.

The crown prince snatched the pill from the child's hand and flicked it. Hidden Flower slapped Nian Kui in tacit understanding, causing Nian Kui to open his mouth wide in pain and receive the coldness poison pill.

Then, Huifeng punched him and made Nian Kui swallow the pill without room for protest.

Qiao Mu wanted to laugh.

This coldness poison pill was not that effective against a man.

“Kill those two and leave him behind to return and make a report.” Qiao Mu’s lips slightly turned up, and she sent Nian Kui a meaningful look.

For some reason, Nian Kui involuntarily shuddered, and his pupils contracted in fear.

Hidden Flower cheerfully killed the two worms and stepped on the back of Nian Kui’s waist. “Why aren’t you scrambling already?”

Nian Kui started before staggeringly escaping in a flurry with a body full of injuries.

After watching the man disappear into the distance, the crown prince lifted the child higher and met her eyes. “What’s your plan?”

The child whispered a few words to him. Although she was quiet, Hidden Flower and the other guards could still hear her clearly and secretly peeked at the child like she was a strange creature.

“Will there be any trouble?”

“There won’t be.” When the crown prince heard her, he was in good spirits. “Hidden Flower.”

Hidden Flower and the other guards were suppressing the urge to allow their chins to drop to the ground from shock. When Hidden Flower heard the crown prince, he hastily ran up and intuitively took out a white jade tablet and handed it to the little miss with both hands.

What a finely engraved jade messenger tablet.

Qiao Mu accepted it and flipped it over to look at its back. There was a dark red “Hidden” and a fiercely black “Night” carved onto the back.

“This is the universal jade messenger tablet used by both Hidden Pavilion and Night Pavilion. Simply write down any news that you want to know on it,” the crown prince said with a smile.

Qiao Mu nodded and put it away silently. When Hidden Flower handed her the special jade pen for the tablet, Qiao Mu waved her hand in negation.

She had the gold-beaded talisman pen, so she naturally did not need any other pen.

Hidden Flower glanced at the crown prince in incomprehension. When he saw the crown prince nod at him, he put away the jade pen.

Chapter 226: Golem

“Qiaoqiao, you won, so you deserve a present.”

Qiao Mu reached out to hold the brocade box given by the crown prince.

As soon as she opened the box, her eyes were attracted by the black ring inside.

The ring was not garishly decorated and merely laid there silently. There were distinct lines on it, and it possessed a unique charm.

The child picked up the ring and wore it. The ring immediately shrunk and snugly encircled her finger according to her size.

“You are... a mystic weapon engineer,” Qiao Mu hesitantly asked. This was a question that had nagged her since last time.

When she concentrated all of her mystic energy to fight the zombies earlier, she actually drew out the fire spirit hidden inside the ferule. That trace of fire spirit was extremely similar to the fire spirit released by the crown prince no matter how she looked at it.

Hence, Qiao Mu guessed that this lad had imbued a trace of his fire spirit inside when he was forging the ferule.

Mo Lian nodded with a smile. “How intelligent.”

“How is it? Why don’t you test it out?”

Qiao Mu injected a dash of mystic energy into the ring.

A light instantly erupted from the ring.

Qiao Mu’s face was stoic as she looked up at the transparent shield that enveloped her entire figure from her head to her toes. Her lips involuntarily twitched.

This guy...

He actually created a shield in the shape of an eggshell. When it enveloped her completely, she resembled...

An egg yolk being encased in an eggshell.

Mo Lian inconsiderately started laughing and turned the child around in his arms through the eggshell.

He knew it. When this defensive shield covered the child, it would definitely be extremely... adorable.

“This defensive shield can currently resist a powerful attack from a level-12 mystic cultivator. However, it’ll unlock and continue to increase its defensive power as your cultivation grows.”

The little stoic silently removed the eggshell shield and looked down at the brocade box.

There was a layer partitioner in the brocade box. When she took out the top layer, a black and glossy metal item was revealed in the bottom layer. It was a... doll.

‘Do I look like I’m still at the stage where I played with dolls?’ the stoic silently roared in her mind. Her dark eyes brusquely glared at the crown prince.

“Here, put it in and try it.” The crown prince flipped his hand over, and a fluorescent green rock appeared in his palm.

“This is a spirit rock, install it in its stomach.”

The little stoic did as he said without any expression on her face.

Until—

“Greetings, Little Master!” The little doll in the box suddenly jumped up and waved its limbs energetically.

The child’s eyes turned round as she pointed at the suddenly moving doll and asked, “What is this?”

“Isn’t it fun?” the crown prince chuckled lightly and poked Qiao Mu’s cheek.

“This is a golem. It can relieve boredom and talk with you. It can also help you play messenger and scout news for you. Most importantly, it can...” The crown prince leaned toward the child’s ears and gently uttered, “Kill people.”

Kill people? This mini, tiny thing?

Qiao Mu’s eyes expressed “I can flatten it with a stomp,” and the crown prince involuntarily released a chuckle and suggested, “Try it out?”

“Come!”

When the child jumped down, the golem also jumped down and instantly dramatically grew into the size of an adult. Then, the golem swung a punch toward the child’s face.

‘Crap...’

It can enlarge! It simply acted without any patterns! Also, from the looks of it, its strength could contend with a level-10 body cultivator’s.

“No more! No more!” An absolute bully! The child scampered around in a circle, eliciting secret laughter from Hidden Flower and the other guards.

“Hurry and make it stop!”

The crown prince broke into laughter.

“...”

“It listens to you.” Crown Prince Mo slowly followed the running child in a circle.

The child was startled. She turned around and looked at the golem chasing her. “Stop!”

Chapter 227: Pill Giving

After being carried into the carriage by the crown prince, the child laid on him sleepily on the journey home.

She was still young, after all, so she was meant to sleep an abundant amount.

When they arrived at Pear Blossom Alley, the crown prince did not wake her up and carried her back to her room directly. He did let Wei Ziqin and Qiao Zhongbang know about this when he left.

Husband and wife stared at each other, bewildered. They both felt like they appeared to have obtained a son-in-law who came and went freely...

Hence, when the child woke up early the next morning, she was in a daze as she sluggishly blinked and saw the net around her bed.

“Little Master, good morning! Little Master, you’re so pretty today! Little Master, if you smiled, you’d definitely be prettier!”

‘Crap...’

Qiao Mu turned her head to the side and peered at the thing jumping around next to her pillow. Her lips involuntarily twitched.

She grabbed the little golem and expressionlessly opened its stomach.

A certain golem sobbed, “Little Master, you’re going to take away my spirit rock? Little Master, Little Master, I’ll miss you, ah... Ah...”

“Shut up.” After taking out this noisy golem’s spirit rock, Qiao Mu picked up the bag of spirit rock sitting next to the golem and tossed the golem into the bag.

Yesterday, in her foggy state, she heard the crown prince mutter to her, “This golem exhausts spirit rock quite fast. It’s fine when it just does the normal messenger and scouting duties. When it turns into combat mode, however, it uses up one spirit rock in two hours.

And spirit rocks supposedly could not be mined in Sikong Planet.

The crown prince actually possessed something that could not be found on Sikong Planet. After pondering over it briefly, Qiao Mu tossed it to the back of her mind. She had quite a lot of secrets on her anyway. The crown prince did not dig into the matter about Qiuqiu, so she naturally would not inquire further about this.

After wearing her clothes properly and putting away the golem and the bag of spirit rocks nicely, Qiao Mu opened the door and walked out.

She inhaled a breath of fresh air and walked a few steps along the corridor before suddenly pausing. She coolly looked at the two people who had their backs facing her in the small courtyard.

Qiao Zhongbang did not expect to be stopped by Wen Ruwan here early in the morning to talk.

Although they maintained their distance from each other, he felt something was odd when he saw Miss Wen secretively walk closer to him.

“Miss Wen, please speak frankly about what you want to say.” Qiao Zhongbang frowned and covertly took two steps back.

Wen Ruwan warmly smiled at Qiao Zhongbang and took out a white porcelain jar from her sleeves. She handed it to Qiao Zhongbang and said with a smile, “Big Brother Qiao, there’s a meridian-nursing pill in here. After you ingest it, it will be a great help for your damaged mystic meridians. There might even be a chance for recovery.”

Qiao Zhongbang’s eyelids jumped, and his eyes fervently landed on the porcelain jar in Wen Ruwan’s hand.

“Um... Miss Wen, I... don't accept a reward that's undeserved. How could I accept something so valuable from you?”

“Big Brother Qiao, don't reject it. I've always been very grateful that you took me in and have been wanting to pay Big Brother Qiao back.” Wen Ruwan gently smiled like her name and softly said, “Big Brother Qiao, are you suspicious about the origin of this pill? Don't worry. I encountered an immortal-like Daoist priest one time and helped him with a small trouble, so the Daoist priest gave this to me. There's no way it can be fake, so don't worry, Big Brother Qiao.”

“Th-that's not it.” Qiao Zhongbang took a step back in embarrassment and kept waving his hand. “I can't, I can't. Miss Wen, I can't—I absolutely can't accept this pill. You should keep it.”

“Father,” Qiao Mu called out normally, interrupting Wen Ruwan from speaking.

Chapter 228: Time to Eet Flower

Qiao Zhongbang quickly exhaled with relief when he saw his daughter. He walked toward her with large strides. “Qiaoqiao is awake! Let's go. Your mother and the others are probably waiting at the dining room. Let's head over there too.”

Could it be that Wen Ruwan also took out this supposed celestial pill in her previous life? She did not kidnap Father successfully but strengthened Grandmother's desire to have her marry into the family?

Perhaps it was precisely because Father had the chance to recuperate his mystic meridians and become a mystic cultivator again that Wen Ruwan was willing to marry down to him?

Otherwise, what else could explain why this manipulative woman was willing to be a widowed man's second wife?

Later, she was abducted by her “friend” and had all four of her limbs snapped broken and imprisoned to have her inner world studied day and night. Hence, she did not pay much attention to whether her father recovered and became a mystic cultivator again in the end.

However, these matters from her previous life were now pointless.

Because Wen Ruwan, this troublesome variable will be erased...

Qiao Mu sent Wen Ruwan a meaningful glance.

[Keep jumping around. You don't have much time left!][a]

Then, she spun on her feet and followed her father toward the dining room.

Wen Ruwan shivered for no reason and furiously put away her white porcelain bottle. She secretly called Qiao Zhongbang “Unappreciative!” before angrily walking toward the dining room as well.

She did not have her breakfast yet, so she naturally could not take the children out on an empty stomach.

When Wen Ruwan reached the dining room, anger filled her stomach again. Qiao Zhongbang and Qiao Zhongxing were happily eating dinner with their family and completely treated her like an invisible person. They did not even bother greeting her.

Elderly Lady just happened to say she was not feeling well this morning, so her breakfast was taken to her room.

Wen Ruwan picked up her bowl and chopsticks and casually ate something all by herself. The more she ate, the more tasteless her food was.

Today's breakfast was congee and mantou, so bland that she thought her mouth had lost its sense of taste.

Wen Ruwan knew that Wei Ziqin had a secret because she always saw Wei Ziqin locking herself in the kitchen and knocking around. Soon, good food like meat could "materialize" out of nowhere.

Wasn't today's breakfast too bland? She saw that girl, Xiao Lin'er, nibbling on some pastry that she had never seen before practically every day. Yet, that girl never knew she should share it. Wen Ruwan really did not know how Wei Ziqin raised her daughters. Each child she raised was more selfish and heartless than the one before.

Wen Ruwan secretly smacked her lips before lightly putting down the bowl and chopsticks on the table. No matter how much resentment she had inside, she still wore a very amiable and kind smile on her face. She looked at Qiao Mu and asked softly and ingratiatingly, "Qiaoqiao, should we head out earlier? We can even stroll around on the way there."

Xiao Lin'er held a bun with both hands. She took a few bites before her eyes suddenly brightened and shot toward her sister. "Time to eet flower?"

"Pft..." Qiao Zhongxing unkindly chuckled.

Qiao Mu was also both amused and exasperated. She extended her arms toward Xiao Lin'er, and Xiao Lin'er immediately threw herself at Qiao Mu.

"Mom, Dad, Second Uncle, then we will leave now." Qiao Mu stood up with her sister in her arms. There was nothing out of sorts about a tiny figure holding a tinier child. Instead, it made people smile.

"Qiaoqiao, be careful." Mother patted her belly as she looked at the two sisters with a smile.

"Xiao Qiao, watch your two sisters, alright?" Second Uncle instructed with a chuckle.

"I know, Dad," Qiao Hu excitedly answered. As soon as he thought about how he could soon go out and play, his heart flew away.

"Sir, Madam, don't worry. Shaoyao will take good care of Young Master and the two misses." Shaoyao walked over with a grin and stood next to Qiao Mu.

The white daisy also pretentiously smiled at Wei Ziqin. "Sister Ziqin, don't worry."

Chapter 229: Flattery

“I’ll be there to watch the children! Absolutely nothing will happen. Even if anything happens, hehehe, Ruwan will protect the children even at the cost of her life.” Wen Ruwan smiled without any notice of other people’s expressions.

Wei Ziqin and Qiao Zhongbang looked at each other. They felt like something was off about Wen Ruwan’s words.

Why did she say something so unlucky for no reason? Of course the children would be fine. What kind of frightening situation would they have to encounter to need you to protect them at the risk of your life?

Wei Ziqin frowned, displeasure flitting through her heart. She dryly nodded at the little white daisy before turning to her daughters with a smile as she watched them leave.

Qiao Zhongxing turned to his brother. “Eldest Brother, I don’t know what’s wrong with Mother today. She even excused herself from breakfast due to feeling unwell. How about the two of us visit her?”

Qiao Zhongbang nodded and said to his wife, “Ziqin, go back and rest. Second Brother and I will visit Mother.”

Then, the two brothers headed to their mother’s room together.

Elderly Lady was still full of vitality last night, so why did she suddenly feel unwell this morning? His daughter did not contradict her grandmother’s will yesterday, so what was there to be unwell about?

“Mother! Mother!!!” The two brothers knocked on the door to their mother’s bedroom. “Mother, can your sons enter?”

The elderly lady responded a moment later. “Ah, Zhongbang, Zhongxing, Mother’s fine. Mother’s head just aches a little, so Mother wants to sleep some more. Don’t disturb Mother.”

The two brothers met each other’s astonished gaze.

“Mother, why do you have a headache all of a sudden? Should I have Chang Zai go to the clinic in the city and invite a doctor back to examine Mother?”

Elderly Lady Qiao quickly answered in a slight panic. “N-no need! Ah, no need for the trouble! Mother will be fine after sleeping a little more. Alright, alright, go do your own thing, you two. Mother will be fine.”

Why did Mother feel so strange? Qiao Zhongbang and his brother quietly muttered before leaving abashedly.

On the other side, after the white daisy took the four children outside, she secretly peeked at Qiao Mu. “Qiaoqiao, it’s still early. Where do you want to go?”

“...”

The four children all maintained their silence.

Qiao Mu wore a taciturn and aloof face while Qiao Lin was too preoccupied with nibbling on the bun in her hand to respond to people.

Shaoyao was following her miss with her head lowered. Little Miss did not speak, so she naturally would not speak either. Qiao Hu was looking around everywhere, so he did not even hear the white daisy.

These four uncooperative children aggravated the white daisy profusely. She secretly cursed the Qiao Family for being lousy in their children's discipline.

When the group left Pear Blossom Alley, they headed toward the main street. The lively atmosphere that assaulted them caused Qiao Hu to not have enough time to look at all the excitement, so he was even less inclined to listen to the white daisy's pestering.

"Sister, eet! Eet flower!" Xiao Lin'er yelled nosily as she pointed her chubby finger at a stall on the side.

Qiao Mu followed her finger and saw that it was a stall selling silk flowers. She could not help but be exasperated by this girl.

"No more eating. Finish the bun in your hand. You aren't allowed to eat again until dinner time. You eat so much. Look at how round your tummy is!" These days, the grains sold in street stalls were more expensive than gold. If people could not even afford coarse grains, how could they set up the finer snack stalls?

Xiao Lin'er pouted and silently returned to eating her bun.

Wen Ruwan approached the two sisters and extended her arms toward Qiao Mu ingratiatingly.

"Qiaoqiao, Xiao Lin'er is quite heavy. You must be tired from holding her. How about I hold her for part of the way?"

"No need." Qiao Mu dodged her arms and kept walking forward while holding Xiao Lin'er.

Chapter 230: Is It for Sale?

Wen Ruwan suppressed the rage in her eyes and secretly snarled, *'You are unappreciative just like your dad!'*

If it were not for the prosperous and worry-free life in the Qiao Family, she would not have bothered to pitifully curry their family's favor like a dejected wife.

She merely did not want to return to the torment that was the lousy western district!

As Qiao Mu walked in the front with Xiao Lin'er in her arms, her lips absentmindedly turned up.

As the sun rose higher in the sky, the amount of people on the main street also increased. Many people walked toward the Thousand Blossom Plaza in groups cheerfully.

"I think Landlord Li's participating flower will be the winner."

"Same. Even those wealthy and affluent families are participating in this Thousand Blossom Festival this time, us poor common people won't have a chance at all."

"That 100 pounds of husked rice is completely out of our reach."

Everyone discussed amongst themselves quietly, several people sighing in dejection.

“Don’t worry. I heard there’s also 200 participation encouragement awards. Everyone can get a pound of beans.”

“But it’s a lottery, so we won’t get it unless the number on our tile is drawn, right? Let’s hurry and get a tile.”

“Ah, that’s good too.”

“Right, right, let’s hurry and get a tile. However, why did the city lord release those dirty fellows from the eastern and western district in here? They even get to compete with us for the number tiles!”

Qiao Mu walked toward the number-issuing station located at the entrance of the plaza.

Since they came out to have fun, they should naturally enjoy everything.

The number tile was a pair of small, thin, specially-made bamboo tiles with a number carved on the back by a blade.

The line was very long, but the issuance speed was quite fast, so it did not take long for them to reach the front.

Qiao Mu and the children each took a pair in fun. When they turned it over, they saw that the number was in the 5000s already.

“Younger Sis, do you think I will win a pound of beans?” When Qiao Hu asked that, the adults around them all involuntarily scoffed.

“Little brother, this all depends on luck. Say, if the entire city participates in this activity, there are at least 10,000 people, right? 200 participation awards might sound like a lot, but when it’s in relation to the total amount of people participating, the probability of winning really isn’t that high.”

Qiao Hu nodded his head. “You’re right, Uncle. This all depends on our face! It’d be great if I can win that one pound of beans!”

“Ay, child, who doesn’t want a pound of beans? I also want to get it!”

“Perhaps I will be lucky enough to get it! My face is white!” Qiao Hu puffed up his chest and harrumphed.

Qiao Mu thought, *‘...Big Brother, it’s not like you are lacking that pound of beans. Why are you so full of anticipation and even getting into an argument with a stranger...? I inexplicably feel like I’m very poor looking at you.’*

‘Really! Going out with a group of silly people is really vexing!’

All kinds of flowers and plants were displayed along the main street and traced the perimeter of the plaza. It was a vast crowd and extremely lively.

As noon approached, the people observing the flowers all began to cast their tile. They would cast one tile and keep the other half. Supposedly, there would be dedicated people from the City Lord’s Estate that would count the tiles tonight, so the results would not be announced until tomorrow.

At that time, as long as the winners kept their number tile, they could line up outside the City Lord's Estate and redeem their food.

Qiao Mu looked around with Xiao Lin'er languidly and had to press down her sister's "Want to eat flower" hand occasionally.

Suddenly, her feet paused in front of a pot of flowers that resembled Chinese crabapple flowers. She blinked.

The old man behind the flower pot nearly leaped out in joy. "Child, cast your tile! Do you like it? Hurry and help this old man cast your tile then!"

The pot had pitifully been displayed for a whole afternoon but only received a few tiles. The old man was on the brink of tears. How could he win the prize like this?

His whole family was waiting for food to cook.

"Grandpa, is your pot of flower... for sale?" Qiao Mu's face was expressionless as usual, but her pitch-black eyes were brighter than ever before.